

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 12-31 are pending in this application. In the December 17, 2007 office action, the Examiner:

- A. Deemed claims 13 and 18-20 allowable if rewritten in independent format;
- B. Rejected claims 12, 14-17, 21-27 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of McCarty, Jr. et al. and further in view of Marchok et al.

The indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. In this response, applicants have amended claims 13-15 and 21-22, and have cancelled claims 12 and 23-31, without prejudice. Applicants have further added new claims 32-36.

II. The Claims are in a Condition for Allowance

The Examiner has stated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitation of its base claim 12. Accordingly, claim 13 is now in a condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 14-22, as amended, all depend from claim 13 and are therefore also in a condition for allowance. New claims 32-36 also depend indirectly from claim 13 and are therefore allowable.

III. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted the applicant has made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

In the event applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of an additional fee, the applicant conditionally petitions therefore, and authorizes any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 13-0014.

Respectfully submitted,



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